

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 USIA-06 NSAE-00 NSC-05
INR-05 PA-01 PM-03 SP-02 HA-02 /049 W
-----092279 140324Z /75
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1211

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: RENEWED CHURCH-STATE DIALOGUE IN EL SALVADOR?

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, CHURCH-STATE DIALOGUE IN EL SALVADOR HAS BEEN VIEWED AS ONE POSSIBLE AVENUE TOWARD RELAXATION OF POLITICAL TENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. EARLIER EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION AND FORMATION OF A "MIXED COMMISSION" BY GOES AND CHURCH TO INVESTIGATE REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENTS CAME TO NOUGHT, PARTLY BECAUSE OF GOES DISSATISFACTION WITH SITUATION IN WHICH IT NAMED CABINET-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMISSION BUT SAW CHURCH AS PROPOSING TO NAME ONLY PARISH PRIESTS WITHOUT ANY POWERS OF DECISION.

2. WE ARE NOW INFORMED THAT THIS SITUATION MAY BE CHANGING. ARCHBISHOP ROMERO IS REPORTED READY TO NAME TO MIXED COMMISSION AUXILIARY BISHOP REVELO, VICAR GENERAL URIOSTE, AND MONS, ARTURO RIVERA DAMAS. GOES WOULD CONSIDER THIS LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE AND FOR ITS PART BE REPRESENTED BY VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO, MINISTER OF JUSTICE FLORES Y FLORES, AND UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE COLONEL IRAHETA. MEETINGS OF
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THE MIXED COMMISSION WOULD COMMENCE AFTER HOLY WEEK.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, CARDINAL CASARIEGO IN GUATEMALA IS EXPECTED TO VISIT SAN SALVADOR. WHILE HERE, IT IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED THAT HE WILL BE THE DINNER GUEST OF THE AMBASSADOR OF GUATEMALA. TO THIS "WORKING DINNER" WILL BE INVITED PRESIDENT ROMERO, VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO,

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO, AND THE PAPAL NUNCION. ALL PROSPECTIVE
GUESTS WILL BE ADVISED IN ADVANCE OF EACH OTHER'S
IDENTITY, AND IF THEY ARE WILLING TO BREAK BREAD
TOGETHER IT IS HOPED AND INTENDED THAT THIS OCCASION
MAY ALSO BEGIN TO BREAK THE GROUND FOR A NEW AND IMPROVED
CHAPTER IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. THE DINNER, TOO, IS
BEING TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR SOON AFTER HOLY WEEK.
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Message Attributes

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